

Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

What is claimed is:

1. (Original) A process for preparing optically enriched (+)-(2S, 3S)-2-(3-chlorophenyl)-3,5,5-trimethyl-2-morpholinol comprising:
subjecting a mixture of (+)-(2S, 3S)-2-(3-chlorophenyl)-3,5,5-trimethyl-2-morpholinol and (-)-(2R, 3R)-2-(3-chlorophenyl)-3,5,5-trimethyl-2-morpholinol to continuous chromatography to resolve (+)-(2S, 3S)-2-(3-chlorophenyl)-3,5,5-trimethyl-2-morpholinol from the mixture.
2. (Original) The process according to claim 1 wherein said mixture is a racemic mixture.
3. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the mixture is passed through an MCC system.
4. (Original) The process according to claim 3, wherein the mixture is passed through a VARICOL system.
5. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein said continuous chromatography comprises contacting an eluent comprising at least one solvent, with a chiral stationary phase, wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of C₅-C₇ alkane, C₁-C₃ alkanol, methyl tert-butyl ether, ethyl acetate, acetone and acetonitrile.
6. (Original) The process according to claim 5, wherein said eluent is acetonitrile.
7. (Original) The process according to claim 5, wherein said eluent is a mixture of acetonitrile and 2-propanol.
8. (Original) The process according to claim 7, wherein said acetonitrile to 2-propanol ratio is between 93/7 % v/v to 99/1 % v/v.
9. (Original) The process according to claim 8, wherein said acetonitrile to 2-propanol ratio is between 95/5 % v/v to 97/3 % v/v.

10. (Original) The process according to claim 5, wherein said chiral stationary phase comprises amylose tris-(3,5-dimethylphenylcarbamate).
11. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, which further comprises crystallizing the (+)-(2S, 3S)-2-(3-chlorophenyl)-3,5,5-trimethyl-2-morpholinol obtained from the mixture.
12. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, wherein said (+)-(2S, 3S)-2-(3-chlorophenyl)-3,5,5-trimethyl-2-morpholinol is obtained in a raffinate stream and (-)-(2R, 3R)-2-(3-chlorophenyl)-3,5,5-trimethyl-2-morpholinol is obtained in an extract stream.
13. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~, claim 1 which further comprises racemizing the (-)-(2R, 3R)-2-(3-chlorophenyl)-3,5,5-trimethyl-2-morpholinol to form a racemic mixture of (+)-(2S, 3S)-2-(3-chlorophenyl)-3,5,5-trimethyl-2-morpholinol and (-)-(2R, 3R)-2-(3-chlorophenyl)-3,5,5-trimethyl-2-morpholinol and subjecting the thus formed racemate to continuous chromatography.
14. (Original) The process according to claim 13 wherein the racemate is recycled into a feed stream.
15. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 13 ~~or 14~~ wherein the racemization is effected in methanol.
16. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 15~~, claim 1 wherein the (+)-(2S, 3S)-2-(3-chlorophenyl)-3,5,5-trimethyl-2-morpholinol is recovered in an amount of at least 90%.